

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 remain pending in the application. Upon entry of the present response, claims 26 and 27 will be amended. Entry of the present response, reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of October 17, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the specification of the present application, Applicants disclose an embodiment of a data storage medium for recording and reproducing a file managed using a volume/file structure. The data storage medium stores data content which includes, inter alia, root directory file management information. The root directory file management information includes start address information for an unrecorded area existing in a volume space, and is configured to be updated when a new file is recorded on the data storage medium by storing new root directory file management information in the unrecorded area for which start address information is recorded.

Kikuchi is directed to a volume and file structure which includes a volume and file structure area 70, a video manager 71, at least one video title set 72, and a recorded area 73. See Figure 4. The video manager 71 includes volume manager information (VMGI) 75, which contains a volume manager information

management table (VMGI\_MAT) 78, and a search pointer table (TT\_SPRT) 79. See Figure 5. In col. 12, lines 51-57, Kikuchi discloses that the search pointer table 79 is an entry program chain of the video titles 72. A start address (TT\_SRPT\_SA) of the title search pointer table (TT\_SRPT) 79 is written in the volume manager information management table (VMGI\_MAT) 78. See col. 13, lines 9-32.

From the Office Action, it is unclear whether the Examiner associates Kikuchi's video manager 71, volume manager information 75, or volume manager information management table 78 with Applicants' root directory file management information. In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to associate Kikuchi's recorded area 73 with Applicants' claimed unrecorded area. See page 5 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kikuchi does not disclose or suggest that the recorded area 73 stores new root directory file management information when a new file is recorded on a data storage medium, to update root directory file management information, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Kikuchi does not disclose (let alone suggest) a data storage medium for recording and reproducing a file, in which the data storage medium stores data content that includes root directory file management information including start address information for an unrecorded area existing in a volume space, and where the root directory file management information is configured to be updated when a new file is recorded on the data storage medium by storing new root directory file management

information in the unrecorded area for which start address information is recorded, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Kikuchi does not anticipate the invention of claim 1, and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection. Independent claims 6, 11, 16 and 21 recite features similar to those of claim 1, and are thus submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons applicable to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2, 7, 12, 17 and 22 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,088). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the specification of the present application, Applicants disclose an embodiment in which root directory file management information includes invalid extent management information for managing an invalid data recording area.

Nakajima is directed to a method for preventing illegal copying of the contents of a disk by inserting dummy data onto a disk during a recording process. See Figures 5A-5D, and col. 17, line 54 – col. 19, line 49. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Nakajima's dummy data corresponds to Applicants' claimed "invalid data", recited in independent claims 3, 8, 13, 18 and 23.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima's disk does not include root directory file management information which includes management information that manages a dummy data recording area. Rather, Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima's dummy data is randomly disposed on a blank disk to prevent illegal copying of the disk. See for example, col. 18, lines 54-67.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima fails to disclose (or even suggest) a data storage medium for recording and reproducing a file, where the data storage medium stores data contents including root directory file management information, and the root directory file management information includes invalid extent management information for managing an invalid data recording area, as recited in independent claim 3.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima does not anticipate the invention of independent claim 3, and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection. Independent claims 8, 13, 18 and 23 recite features similar to those of claim 3, and thus are submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claims 4, 9, 14, 19, 24 and 28-32 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 3, 8, 13, 18 and 23.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ohmori (U.S. Patent No. 5,687,397). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the specification of the present application, Applicants disclose an embodiment in which root directory file management information is plurally recorded as main chaining information and reserve chaining information. The reserve chaining information is a duplicate of the main chaining information. The data contents stored in the data storage medium also include first address information, corresponding to an area in which the main chaining information and the reserve chaining information are recorded at a beginning of a volume space, that is recorded as part of a file set descriptor, and a second address information, corresponding to an area in which the main chaining information and the reserve chaining information is update recorded, that is recorded as part of the main chaining information and the reserve chaining information.

Ohmori is directed towards a recording medium which includes a table of contents for user audio data (A-UTOC) and a table of contents for user non-audio data (D-UTOC). See col. 8, lines 10-37. In the Office action, the Examiner appears to associate Ohmori's table of contents (A-UTOC or D-UTOC) with Applicants' claimed root directory file management information.

Applicants respectfully submit that such an assertion is erroneous. Applicants submit that Ohmori does not disclose that the recording medium records address information, which corresponds to an area in which the A-UTOC or D-UTOC information is update recorded. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Ohmori fails to disclose or suggest a data storage medium that stores first address information, corresponding to an area in which main and reserve chaining information are recorded at a beginning of a volume space, and second

address information, corresponding to an area in which the main and reserve chaining information are update recorded, as recited in independent claim 5.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Ohmori does not anticipate the invention of independent claim 5, and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection. Independent claims 10, 15, 20 and 25-27 recite features similar to those of claim 5, and are thus submitted to also be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

In this regard, Applicants have amended claims 26 and 27 to clarify that the main chaining information and reserve chaining information include address information of an area for update recording the root directory file management information.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants recognize that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment is proper under the current circumstances as the present amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Specifically, Applicants submit that the features newly recited in claims 26 and 27 were previously recited in claims 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25, and thus do not raise new issues.

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

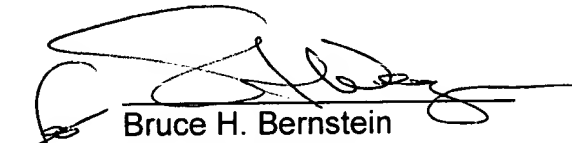
Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this

P20481.A14

response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miyuki SASAKI et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

January 17, 2006  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman  
Reg. No. 31,438